

A Christian Consolatory Letter; written by a Reuerend
Pastour and Minister of Gods Word, to one of his louing Parishio-
ners and Friends: vpon occasion of Gods Visitation of the said Pastors house
with the Pestilence, within two miles of London.

Mr. I. L. Pastour of S. M. B.
To his assured true Friend and Parishioner, H. H. in London.

(The Christian Reader may understand that H. H. did first write unto M. I. L. but hath
not thought the Copie of this Letter(mentioned) worthy the Preffe.)

Good Mr. H. I hartily thanke you for your kind christian Letter, which I affire you
affected me and my wife no leſle in the reading than it seemes it did you in the writing. It hath pleased God to come neere vs indeed; to take away our poore little daughter
R. to wee heard yesterday: and I feare our maid Mary hath followed her: But since I haue
not heard from thence. What shall wee say to it? God is iuft and wise: Hee thought it not
fit wee ſhould ſcape in this common Judgement, but would haue vs to drinke of the ſame
cup that ſo many thousands haue drunke of beſide: perhaps hee ſaw that otherwife wee
would haue ben either too much lifted vp with our owne ſafetie, or leſle carefull to com-
paffionate the afflictions of others, and to direct our ſteps in a ſtraight way vnto him. Now
wee liue as children vnder the feare of the rod, and ſhall learne to ſtand in more awe of him
that hath power to puniſh vs. Yet my hope and comfort is, that it hath ben a correction
laid vpon vs in his loue, not in his wrath. My poore childe I doubt not is in the armes of a
better father, where ſhe shall nei her any more ſuffer, nor any more ſin. The Lord ſancti-
fie his croſſe vnto vs, and teach vs both to make the right uſe of this that is paſt, and ſeri-
ouſly to prepare for whatoeuer is to come. By his great and wonderfull mercy hee hath
prouided an other place for our refuge; where yet I bleſſe his naue we continue found and
well. And I beſeech him it may not be with vs as with the Philiftims, who whither ſoever
they remoued, ſtill his plagues followed them. Howſoever, to ſay with D A V I D; *It is the Lord, let him do what ſeemeth good in his owne eyes.* Good Mr. H. It hath beene a ſad and a
chargeable time to vs, and ſo it is ſtill like to bee. But I labour to liue by faith, and to reſt
vpon the prouidence of that mercifull God, that feeds all the world; therefore will not (I
truff) forfake me nor mine. For your ſelues, that muſt, as you write, endure the heate of the
day, of this the Lords Visitation: I forrow for you, and I pray heartily to God for you. Com-
fort your ſelues in the Lord: He can as well make daungerous places ſafe, as ſafe places daun-
gerous; his holy hand be euer ouer you, and ouer all our deere louing friends about you;
and he that helpt the three children in the midſt of the burning Furnace, of his infinite
goodneſſe, preferue and keepe you all, in the heate of this his burning Judgement, that
the fire of it may not touch a haire of your heads. He that empties his Quiuers every day ſo
fast, and ſpends his Arrows abroad, hide you all, as Arrows, in the Quiuer of his prouidence,
where you may be ſafe from daunger. I affire you, I deſirde nothing more, for mine owne
particular than to haue return'd among you, and ſhould willingly haue continued in the
labour of my Ministry, for the good and comfort of as many as are left in my Charge; (whom
God is my record I loue vnfainedly in the Lord,) during the vtmoſt of this Visitation,
though I had ben offred vp for your ſakes. But as it hath pleased God now to deale, it
had ben altogether inconuenient: and the caſe ſtanding as it does, I hope it is neither di-
pleasing to the Lord, nor offendiuſe to you, that for a time I withdraw my ſelue, if God will
reſerue me for any further ſeruice in his Churche. In the meane time, I ſhall be glad to
heare that you can provide any in my roome to bee helpfull vnto you. And for my ſelue,
what I faile in one way, I ſhall bee diligent to ſupply another; Though I cannot weekly
preach to you, I will daily pray to the Lord for you: and the good Lord be mercifull to our
prayers; in his owne due time to refreſh vs with his louing kindneſſe, and to comfort vs ac-
cording to the dayes wherein he hath affliſted vs. Good Sir, continue your heartie prayers
for vs: And ſo intreat the reſt of my deere and beloued Parishioners, that remaine; Salute
them all in the Lord; but especially thoſe of my neareſt acquaintance, many of whom I
haue in my mind, and would name in my paper; but fearing I may omit ſome; I ſhall in-
treat them to accept of this generall remembrance. Forget vs not vnto your good wife:
Wee thanke you and her, for your conſtant and entire loue vnto vs: The Lord recompence
it; and when he ſhall ſee good, after theſe times of mourning, ſend vs times of reioycing.

August. 1. 1625.

Your affectionate true
Friend, I. L.